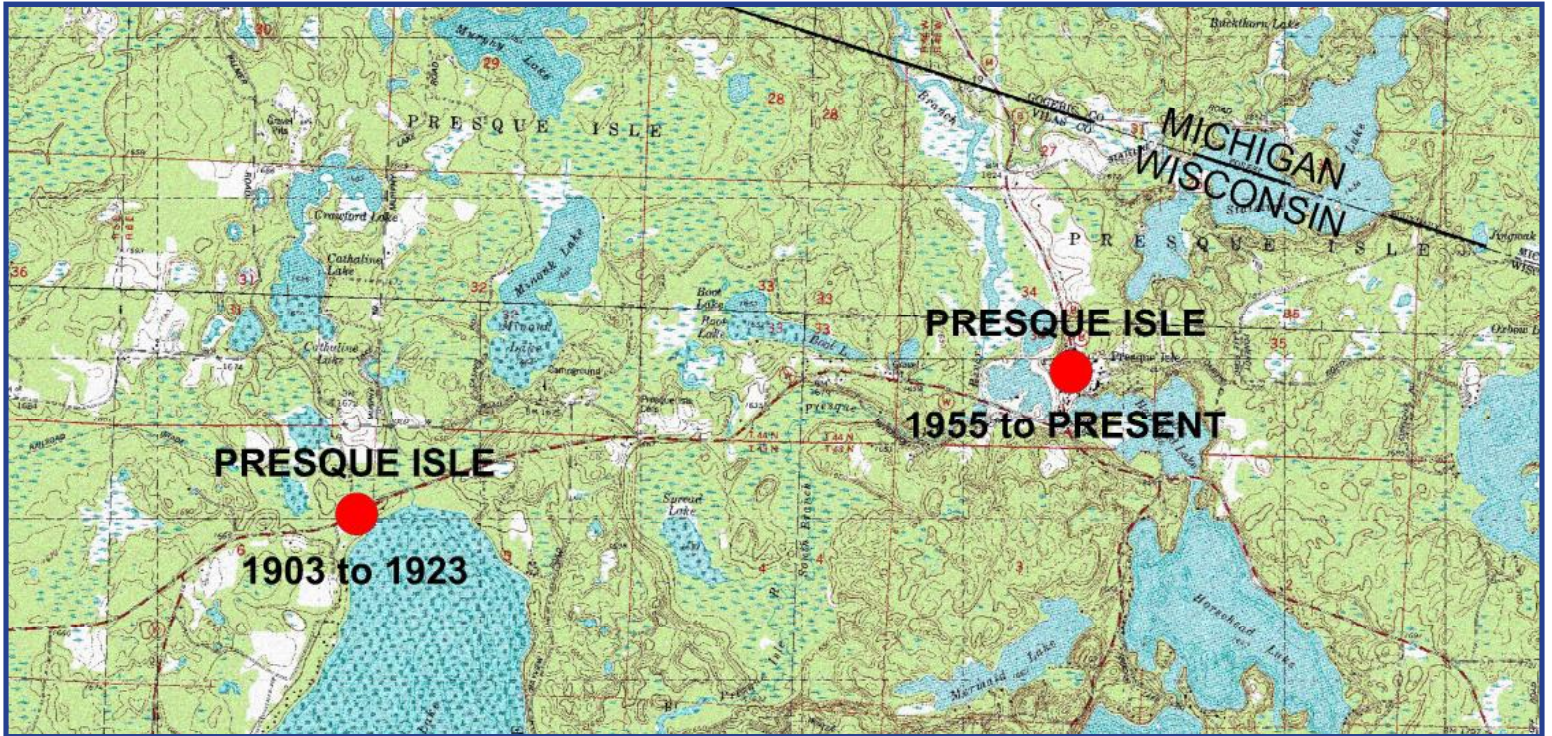


A few Early Presque Isle Resident Biographies.



First town of *Presque Isle* was formed in 1903. Shown on a 1916 map, and a Vilas County Vacation map. No Post Office records have been found.

Bastian, John H. A well-known farmer of the town of Presque Isle, Vilas County, was born in the town of St. Lawrence, Waupaca County, Wis., Feb. 25, 1879, son of John H. and Nettie (SMITH) BASTIAN. He was educated in the schools of Ogdensburg, Wis., and remained with his parents, assisting in the operation of their farm, until he was 16 years of age. He then traveled over several states, following various occupations, and in 1914 he came to Vilas County and rented the George R. NELSON farm for two years, at the end of which time he purchased his present tract of 160 acres of cut-over land in the town of Presque Isle. He has erected a substantial set of buildings on this property and has cleared about 25 acres, where he is now carrying on general farming and dairying. He puts most of the profits of his operations back into the further development of the property, and to better enable him to carry on this work he accepts employment in the lumber woods during the winter months. He has taken a useful part in public affairs, having served as a supervisor on the township board for the past two years, and is in every way a fine citizen of the community. Mr. BASTIAN was married in the town of Dupont, Waupaca County, Wis., Nov. 18, 1903, to Martha MAAS, daughter of Ernst and Manda (KITTNER) MAAS. Mrs. BASTIAN'S father is now deceased and her mother makes her home in Appleton, Wis. Eight children, as follows, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. BASTIAN: Truman D., Irma, Henry J., Margaret, Ort, Rachael, Vance and Joyce. Truman D. is now engaged in operating a tractor in the camps of the Vilas County Lumber Co.; Irma is also in the employ of this company; the other children are all living at home.

Kunschke, William F. Proprietor of Ox Bow Resort, situated on the west shore of Ox Bow Lake, in the northern part of the town of Presque Isle, Vilas County, was born Sept. 7, 1882 in the town of Caledonia, Waupaca County. His parents, Carl and Minnie (ZICHERT) KUNSCHKE, were natives of Germany who came to the United States in 1861. They were married in Milwaukee and later settled in Waupaca County, where they followed farming for the rest of their lives. William F. KUNSCHKE was educated in the common schools of Waupaca County and remained at home until he was eleven years old. For two years thereafter he was engaged in farm labor and then he went to work for the Mattoon Manufacturing Co., at Mattoon, Wis., tying bed slats and later operating a planer. After four years with that concern he did farm work again for several years in Waupaca and Outagamie Counties. Later for two years he was engaged in construction work on the C. & N. W. Railway, from Watesmeet to Choate, Mich. It was on May 21, 1901 when he came to this northern country, and after he gave up railroading in the spring of 1903 he became manager and cook for the Ohio Crab Lake Sporting Club, for whom he worked eight years at their camp on Crab Lake. In October, 1911 Mr. KUNSCHKE bought 107 acres in Section 36 (Township 44 north of Range 6 east) in the town of Presque Isle, and proceeded to make a home here. In 1907 he homesteaded an island now known as Kunschke Island, on which he built a shack and made his home until 1911, when he erected his present set of buildings, and began to receive tourists, whom he care for with the assistance of his wife. He has now three cottages, with accommodations for twelve people. He has cleared twelve acres of his land and does general farming, keeping cows and chickens, which provide him with fresh milk, cream and eggs for his guests. He also keeps boats for their accommodation, as well as fisherman's bait and furnishes guides. His post office is at Winegar, about a mile and a half away and on a branch of the C. & N. W. Railway, from which place he built a road to his farm. In April, 1911 Mr. KUNSCHKE was elected assessor of the town of Presque Isle. He was married Sept. 9, 1911 in Bessemer, Mich., to Miss Ida PARNELL, and he and his wife have two children, Mabel E. and Velma A

Laundrie, Frank H. A prominent resident of the town of Winchester, Vilas County, and present chairman of the board of that township, was born in Peshtigo, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Sept. 22, 1887, son of Robert and Odeal (DUVILLE) LAUNDRIE. The mother died in 1903 and the father is now residing on a farm in Winchester Township, Vilas County. Frank H. LAUNDRIE received his education in the schools near his home, and when a young man he began work for the Flambeau Lumber Co. in their sawmill at Lac du Flambeau, continuing there for seven years. He first came to Winchester in 1907, returning to Lac du Flambeau in the fall of the same year but coming here to settle permanently the following year. Here he began service with the Turtle Lake Lumber Co., and he has ever since been in the employ of this company. He started as carriage rider, and during his years of service with this company he has worked in practically every department of their sawmill and planing mill, gaining an unusually thorough knowledge of all the different branches of lumber manufacture. His present position is that of inspector of finished lumber. In 1915 Mr. LAUNDRIE purchased 40 acres of cutover land in what is now Section 18, town of Winchester, and here, while still carrying on his duties at the mill, he has built up a fine agricultural property; he has erected a good six-room house on the land and makes his home there, carrying on the development of the farm. While these activities keep him very busy, Mr. LAUNDRIE has always found time to devote to the advancement of the general welfare of his community. He has been an active worker in bringing about equal taxation of property, and has accomplished a great amount of good in this cause, particularly since his election to the chairmanship of the township board. **His first election to this office in 1920 as chairman of the town of Presque Isle**, of which the present territory of the town of Winchester then formed a part. In 1923 when the latter township was set off from Presque Isle he was elected its chairman, and he is now serving in that office, by virtue of which he is a member of the county board; he is a member of the committee on illegal taxes in the latter body, and is one of the prominent figures in the administration of county affairs. He has been a strong supporter of good roads and several pieces of good road have been constructed in his town since he became chairman of the town board. Mr. LAUNDRIE was married April 10, 1912, to Lucy TROYER, of Lac du Flambeau, and he and his wife have three children: Jesse, born May 19, 1913; Norene, born Feb. 28, 1915; and Mary, born Dec. 17, 1919. The family are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. LAUNDRIE'S fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America, of which he has been a member since 1905

McElrone, Thomas F. deputy sheriff of Vilas County and a well-known farmer in the town of Winchester of that county, was born in the city of Quebec, Canada, Nov. 28, 1876, son of Henry and Mary (RILEY) MCELDRONE. The family came to Wisconsin and settled at Eau Claire in 1879, and from there the parents came in 1909 to Vilas County, settling on a farm in the town of Winchester, where they are now residing. Thomas F. MCELDRONE received his education in a private Catholic school in Eau Claire, and he grew to manhood in that city, following various occupations there until 1910, when he came to Vilas County and bought 40 acres of cut-over land in what was then a portion of the Township of Lac du Flambeau but later formed a part of the **Township of Presque Isle** and since March, 1923, has been part of the newly-created town of Winchester. The property is situated in Section 28 of this town. Mr. MCELDRONE has made excellent progress in the development of this land in spite of the fact that he has always done a great deal of work in the employ of others, such as teaming and in guide service. He is now deputy sheriff of Vilas County under Sheriff BLOHM, and he occupied the same position for two years under Sheriff GAFFNEY. He has built a good residence on his land, as well as barns and other equipment, and he carries on general diversified farming with excellent success. His fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his family are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. MCELDRONE was married in October, 1904, to Angeline VANSKI of Eau Claire, Wis. Six children, as follows, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. MCELDRONE: Henry, Helen, Francis, Willis, Robert, and John.



Nelson, George R. Prominent farmer and real estate broker of Presque Isle Township, Vilas County, was born in Waupaca County, Wis., May 30, 1862, son of Berndt and Martha (ANDERSON) NELSON. The parents were natives of Norway; coming to the United States in 1846, they settled first in Milwaukee and later drove through with a team of oxen to Waupaca County, where they were among the earliest settlers; they took up homestead there and spent the remainder of their lives engaged in operating this property. Six children were born to them: Nels, now deceased; Anna, who is Mrs. John MORTENSON of Iola, Wis.; Andrew, a farmer in the town of St. Lawrence, Waupaca County; Peter, deceased; Lena, twin sister of Peter, now Mrs. RASMUSSEN of Ogdensburg, Wis.; and George R. George R. NELSON received his education in the district schools of Waupaca County and entered the lumber industry at the age of 16 years, doing logging on the Little Wolf River. After a short time there he went to upper Michigan in the employ of the Jenson Bros. Lumber Co., and from there he went to Parrish, Wis., with the Brooks & Ross Lumber Co., in whose employ he continued for 20 years as cruiser and camp foreman, leaving them in 1903 to enter the employ of the Ashland Iron and Steel Co. at Dunham, Mich. In 1907 he went to Winegar, Wis., as assistant superintendent of the sawmill operated there by the Vilas County Lumber Co., and after four years in this capacity he spent two years as woods superintendent for the Weidman Lumber Co. and five years in the same position with the DeLaiter-Anderson Lumber Co. at Calderwood, Mich. Mr. NELSON followed the lumber industry until 1916 and then settled on his present 200-acre farm in Presque Isle Township, which he had purchased in 1908 and which was the first land bought for agricultural purposes in Vilas County. On this property Mr. NELSON has erected a set of substantial buildings and has cleared 100 acres, and he is now engaged in its operation, his chief crops being potatoes, oats, and hay. He also carries on extensive operations as a real estate broker, dealing in all kinds of lands and offering lake front property on 50 different lakes. He was township assessor for four years and has served as deputy county surveyor of Vilas County for the past six years, and he is one of the leading citizens of this section of the country. On March 29, 1900, in Wakefield, Mich., Mr. NELSON was united in marriage with Mrs. Louise MORSE, who in maiden life was Louise BASTIAN, daughter of John H. and Nettie (SMITH) BASTIAN. Mrs. NELSON'S parents were natives of Germany and came from that country to the United States in 1867, spending the remainder of their lives on a farm in Waupaca County. Mr. and Mrs. NELSON are the parents of one child, Myrtle L., who is now Mrs. William P. TOOMEY of Marenisco, Mich. By her former marriage to Henry MORSE Mrs. NELSON is the mother of three other children: Nettie L., who is now Mrs. Frank GRAVES of Marenisco, Mich.; Georgiana P., also of Marenisco, the wife of Bert ANDERSON; and Marion J., who married Nellie MCADAMS and is living at Ontonagon, Mich. Mr. NELSON is a man who has traveled the rough and stony as well as the smoother pathways of life. Always a strong and rugged character, he has surmounted all the hardships, and has, indeed, turned them to his own advantage by applying the lessons they teach. His strong personality and his qualities of fine, upright citizenship have built up for him a place of the highest regard and esteem on the part of the entire community.

Owens, Lewis W. Chief engineer for the Vilas County Lumber Co. at Winegar, was born at Clearfield, Pa. Nov. 1, 1866. He received his education at that place and remained at home until he was 20 years old, after which, in 1886, he came west to Michigan and located at Sullivan, 14 miles from Muskegon, following sawmill engineering there until 1892. He then followed the same line in Charlevoix County, Mich., until 1907, and was next at Marenisco, Mich., until 1911. On Feb. 4 of the latter year he accepted his present position as chief engineer with the Vilas County Lumber Co. and came to Winegar. In addition to his work there he and his son-in-law, L. D. BRIGHTMAN, conduct a service station and automobile repairing establishment at Winegar, dispensing gasoline, lubricating oils, and accessories in addition to doing a general repair business and conducting the agency for the Chevrolet car. Mr. OWENS was married at Big Rapids, Mich., Nov. 21, 1889, to Dora CARMAN. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. OWENS, Fred, Gladys, and Arthur, of whom Arthur is now deceased. Fred is an engineer in the mill of the Vilas County Lumber Co.; he married Leona COUNTERS and has two children, Dora and Geraldine. Gladys is now Mrs. L. D. BRIGHTMAN and is the mother of one child, Shirley; Mr. BRIGHTMAN'S association in business with Mr. OWENS has been mentioned previously. Mr. OWENS is a very capable man and has taken an active and useful part in the public affairs of his community. He is now serving his third term as clerk of the town of Presque Isle, which includes the village of Winegar. He was justice of the peace for four terms, and for the nine years he has been a member of the school board of Winegar. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and the Beavers. Besides his interests in Winegar he has farm land holdings in Michigan.

Richards, George D. General superintendent of works for the Vilas County Lumber Co. at Winegar, was born at Breckenridge, Colo., Oct. 6, 1877, and was educated in the schools of Denver and of Des Moines. He began as a wage earner at the age of 16 years, when he became a bell boy in the Kirkwood Hotel at Des Moines. After remaining with the hotel for a short time he followed various occupations in different parts of the country for three years, and in the winter of 1898-99 he came to Owen, Wis. and entered the employ of the John S. OWEN Lumber Co., his first work with them being a railroad construction; when he left them in 1920 he has achieved the position of yard superintendent. While living at Owen he served the village as clerk for 12 years, as justice of the peace, and as chairman of the commercial club for three years. He was also prominent in lodge circles at that place, being a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge there and serving for eight years as their grand representative. Mr. RICHARDS is also a member of the Masonic order, the Beavers, and the Modern Woodmen of America. On Jan. 1, 1920, he came to Winegar as yard foreman for the Vilas County Lumber Co. His rise was rapid, and he is now general superintendent of all their works here, and owns stock in the company. He is a man of exceptional ability, a fine executive, and he has taken a useful part in the public affairs of this community, being elected chairman of Presque Isle board in 1923, a fine tribute to his capabilities by the residents of this locality.

Transcribed by Susan Swanson, from, History of Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas Counties Wisconsin; Compiled by George O. Jones, Norman S. McVean and Others 1924, H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co

Sipps, William F. Proprietor of a fine farm in the town of Presque Isle, Vilas County, was born at Muskegon, Mich., Aug. 3, 1879, son of Thomas and Rachel (THOMPSON) SIPPS. The father, who died in the spring of 1919, was a native of Pennsylvania; the mother, born in Ohio, now makes her home with her son Vernon, in the town of Presque Isle. Five children were born to these parents: Edna, now Mrs. Isaac GARDNER of Muskegon, Mich.; William F., subject of this sketch; Vernon, of Presque Isle township; Amy, who is the widow of Fred PRICE and lives in Muskegon; and Mamie, twin sister of Amy, now Mrs. Claude ALBRANT, also of Muskegon. William F. SIPPS was educated in the public schools of Ravenna, Mich., and then followed various occupations until 1915, when he bought 60 acres of stump land in the town of Presque Isle, Vilas Township, bordering on the village of Winegar, and proceeded to build up from this his present fine agricultural property. The task was a large one, but in the ownership of the farm he now has he is well repaid for the years of toil he spent in developing it. He has cleared the stumps from a good share of the land and has erected a nice residence and set of farm buildings and is operating his farm along modern lines, having a good herd of Holstein and Guernsey cattle. He made butter from the product of his herd for several years but he now sells the milk, having an established route in the village of Winegar and enjoying a large tourist trade during the summer months. Mr. SIPPS married Amy JOHNSON, and he and his wife are the parents of three children: Roy, born April 23, 1906, who is assisting his father in the operation of the farm; Lena, born March 24, 1909; and Ina, born April 5, 1913.

Thomas, Rollie A. Lumber inspector for the Vilas County Lumber Co. at Winegar, was born at Amherstburg, Canada, Feb. 9, 1882, son of Joseph and Jessie (SCHULTZ) THOMAS. The parents are now residing at Ashland, Wis., the father being an engineer on the Omaha Railway. Rollie A. THOMAS came to Ashland with his parents in 1892 and was there educated in the grade and high schools. Early in life he went to work for the railroad company there as a fireman, but he left this position after a short time and went to Bibon, Wis., with the Chicago Lumber and Coal Co. as an employe in their planing mill. In 1909 he came to Winegar; here he worked in the planing mill of the Vilas Lumber Co. until 1917, when he was made lumber inspector in their yards, in which position he has since continued. He has won a high place of esteem in the community; for three years he was clerk of the village school board, and he is now serving his second term as treasurer of the town of Presque Isle, which township includes the village of Winegar. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is interested in baseball and all forms of outdoor sports, and has done much to promote these interests in the village. Mr. THOMAS was married Sept. 19, 1911, to Mary M. HUNT, of Winegar, who at the time of her marriage was bookkeeper for the company which her husband represents. Two children, Rollie William and Irene Margaret, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. THOMAS. The family are members of the Catholic Church and are well thought of in every way.



January 7, 1903, the original town of Presque Isle, Wisconsin was formed.